



Piedmont Friends—Yearly Meeting & Fellowship

2025 Retreat and Annual Sessions

May 30, 31, June 1

Grounded in Spirit – Nourished in Community – Prepared for Action

Friday evening, May 31; 7:00 to 8:30 (via Zoom)

Friends Gathering

Friends will participate in a Zoom community-building activity, led by John Shuford and Deborah Bromiley (Raleigh Friends Meeting). Friends will get to know and deepen their connection to each other through meaningful sharing, in a series of break-out rooms with small groups.

In-Person Gathering—Guilford College, 9:00 to 5:00

Saturday morning, 9:00 to 10:00—Arrival and Fellowship

Piedmont Friends gather in-person for this day of fellowship and annual sessions. Enjoy fellowship and potluck morning snacks. Once again, we will be aiming for a Zero-waste event, using reusables, recyclables and compostables!

Saturday morning young Friends gathering, 10:00 to 11:30

Beulah Gullion, Winston-Salem Friends, will lead activities for young Friends

Saturday morning, 10:00 to 11:30—Plenary Session (with virtual webcast opportunity)

Grounded in Spirit – Nourished in Community – Prepared for Action

Mark Davidson, Raleigh Friends, and Michelle Downey, Fayetteville Friends, will reflect on the Retreat theme from their leadings and discernment journeys in regard to Palestine-Israel and the growing concerns for immigrants in the US, respectively.

Saturday lunch and fellowship, 12:00 to 1:30

Order lunch from *Jerusalem Market* when registering or bring your own lunch.

Saturday afternoon, 1:30 to 5:00

Piedmont Friends Annual Sessions

1:30-3:00 Friends will hear from PF-YM&F Organizational Representatives and have time for questions and conversation during a mid-afternoon break.*

3:00-5:00 The annual meeting for worship with attention to business for Piedmont Friends-Yearly Meeting & Fellowship. (An agenda and reports will be available in advance.)

Sunday morning meeting for worship, 9:00 to 9:45

ALL Friends are invited to join this virtual unprogrammed Meeting for Worship.

Saturday Evening Invitation at New Garden Friends Meeting (5:30-6:30)

Join in a joyful sing-along to the music from the musical GODSPELL

REGISTRATION: [2025 Piedmont Friends Retreat REGISTRATION](#)

INFORMATION: [2025 Retreat & Annual Sessions Information Page](#)

J. Mark Davidson, Raleigh Friends Meeting, will reflect on formative experiences in his journey to Palestine solidarity activism. John Woolman's integrity has been an inspiration on this journey, particularly Woolman's sensitivity to the Spirit, his rootedness in community, and his determination to put his faith into practice. Mark will talk about the calling to people of faith to stand with Palestine in this historical moment

J. Mark Davidson lived in Beirut, Lebanon as a boy, where his parents were professors. He spent his college summers volunteering in Appalachia, inner city Denver, and the barrio in Albuquerque, participating in social change ministries.. Following a seminary education and an additional year in the Peace and Justice Studies program at the Earlham School of Religion, Mark served in progressive churches for 40 years, retiring in 2019. He and his wife Sunny are happily living their faith now as Quakers and are members of Raleigh Friends Meeting. Mark is Executive Director of Voices for Justice in Palestine.

Michelle Downey has been clerk of Fayetteville Friends Meeting since 2020 and clerk of NC Yearly Meeting-Conservative since 2023. She will share a testimony regarding Fayetteville Friends' process of discernment entitled **Like Dew on the Tender Plants**:

Is our faith walk one of not only discernment but one of protecting our community with action? How might the words of our Quaker ancestors educate and inspire us today? In the words of John Woolman:

"... where people are sincerely devoted to follow Christ, and dwell under the influence of his Holy Spirit, their stability and firmness, through a Divine blessing, is at times like dew on the tender plants around them, and the weightiness of their spirits secretly works on the minds of others."

Quaker Organizations & Piedmont Friends Representatives- This year, rather than display tables, the Retreat is including time for participants Saturday to learn more from our fellow Piedmont Friends who represent PF-YM&F to various Quaker organizations—American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL), Friends Committee on National (FCNL), Friends General Conference (FGC), Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC), and Quaker House. Additional Quaker organizations may be present with information.

Directions to Guilford College Community Center
5602 George Fox Road (*Note: George Fox Road is a loop road on campus)

1. Starting at the intersection of Friendly Ave and New Garden Road / College Road, take New Garden Road past the first traffic light, passing New Garden Friends Meeting on your left and the first Guilford College entrance (George Fox Road) to your right.
2. Turn right at the second traffic light (opposite Arcadia Drive) onto George Fox Road and follow it to the Community Center sign on the left.
3. Parking is in the South Apartments and Community Center lot. (Marked by red arrow on map).
4. Community Center is in the far back corner of the parking lot. (Marked by red arrow on map).

